

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A *Streptococcus thermophilus* bacterium resistant to attack by at least one bacteriophage, said bacterium comprising at least one of the modifications selected from the group consisting of ~~modification~~ addition of DNA in ORF 90 of the bacterial chromosome sufficient to disrupt expression of a chorismate mutase chain A gene, and deletion of at least part of ORF 1560 of the genome of a ϕ Sfi21 prophage in the bacterium to disrupt expression of said ϕ Sfi21 prophage.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The bacterium according to claim 1 which is a modified bacterium of a strain of *S. thermophilus* selected from the group consisting of Sfi1 and Sfi1c16.

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (currently amended): The bacterium according to claim 3 wherein the addition of DNA comprises bacterial insertion sequence (IS)-*SI*).

Claim 5-8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (currently amended): A composition comprising:

a *Streptococcus thermophilus* bacterial strain including at least one of the modifications selected from the group consisting of a ~~modification~~ addition of DNA in ORF 90 of the bacterial chromosome sufficient to disrupt expression of a chorismate mutase chain A gene, and deletion of at least part of ORF 1560 of the genome of a ϕ Sfi21 prophage in the bacterial strain to disrupt expression of said ϕ Sfi21 prophage; and

at least one component ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of a carrier, adjuvant and diluent.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A starter culture comprising a *Streptococcus thermophilus* bacterial strain including at least one of the modifications selected from the group consisting of a ~~modification~~ addition of DNA in ORF 90 of the bacterial chromosome sufficient to disrupt expression of a chorismate mutase chain A gene, and deletion of at least part of ORF 1560 of the genome of a ϕ Sfi21 prophage in the bacterial strain to disrupt expression of said ϕ Sfi21 prophage.

Claim 11-17 (canceled).

Claim 18 (currently amended): The composition according to claim 9 wherein the bacterial strain is a modified bacterial strain of a strain of *S. thermophilus* is-selected from the group consisting of Sfi1 and Sfi1c16.

Claims 19-20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (currently amended): A milk product comprising a *Streptococcus thermophilus* bacterial strain including at least one of the modifications selected from the group consisting of ~~modification~~ addition of DNA in ORF 90 of the bacterial chromosome sufficient to disrupt expression of a chorismate mutase chain A gene, and deletion of at least part of ORF 1560 of the genome of a ϕ Sfi21 prophage in the bacterium to disrupt expression of said ϕ Sfi21 prophage.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The starter culture according to claim 10 wherein the bacterial strain is a modified bacterial strain of a strain of *S. thermophilus* is selected from the group consisting of Sfi1 and Sfi1c16.

Claims 23-24 (canceled)

Claim 25 (currently amended): The milk product according to claim 21 wherein the bacterial strain is a modified bacterial strain of *S. thermophilus* is selected from the group consisting of Sfi1 and Sfi1c16.

Claims 26-27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (previously presented): A *Streptococcus thermophilus* bacterial strain, wherein at least one of the bacterial chromosome or a ϕ Sfi21 phage genome of said strain is modified such that phage replication within the bacterium is prevented, wherein the modification is selected from the group consisting of addition of DNA to the bacterial chromosome in ORF 90 at a site which disrupts expression of a chorismate mutase chain A gene and deletion of DNA from at least part of ORF 1560 of the ϕ Sfi21 prophage to disrupt expression of said prophage.

Claim 29 (currently amended): The *S. thermophilus* bacterial strain according to claim 28, ~~wherein the~~which is a modified bacterial strain of a strain of *S. thermophilus* is selected from the group consisting of Sfi1 and Sfi1c16.

Claim 30 (previously presented): A composition comprising the *S. thermophilus* bacterial strain of claim 28, wherein said composition comprises the bacterium together with a carrier, adjuvant or diluent.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The composition according to claim 30, which is a starter culture or milk product.

Claim 32-41 (canceled)

Claim 42 (new): The composition according to claim 9 wherein the addition of DNA comprises bacterial insertion sequence (ISSI).

Claim 43 (new): The starter culture according to claim 10 wherein the addition of DNA comprises bacterial insertion sequence (ISSI).

Claim 44 (new): The starter culture according to claim 10 wherein the bacterial strain is a modified bacterial strain of a strain of *S. thermophilus* selected from the group consisting of Sfi1 and Sfi1c16.

Claim 45 (new): The milk product according to claim 21 wherein the addition of DNA comprises bacterial insertion sequence (ISSI).

Claim 46 (new): The bacterial strain according to claim 28 wherein the addition of DNA comprises bacterial insertion sequence (ISSI).